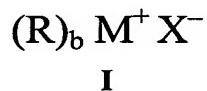


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A multilayer film comprising a ~~substrate~~ substrate bearing an aligned fixed liquid crystal layer wherein the fixed liquid crystal layer contains an onium salt represented by formula (I):



wherein:

each R is an independently selected straight, branched or cyclic alkyl group or an aromatic group and b is 2, 3, or 4;

M⁺ is a cation chosen from periodic group Va, VIa, and VIIa of the Periodic Table of Elements; and X⁻ is a counter-ion;

provided the salt may be present as an oligomeric or polymeric form of the salt.

2. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein at least one R group is an alkyl group of 1-25 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein at least one R group is an alkyl group of 1-6 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently amended) The film of claim 1 wherein at least one R group is an aromatic group comprising a single or 1 or 2 fused rings.

5. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein at least one R group is an aryl group.

6. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein at least one R group is a heteroaryl group.

7. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein at least one R group is a phenyl group.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein M is a cation chosen from group VIIa.

10. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein M is iodonium.

11. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein X is a counterion whose conjugate acid has a pKa of less than 10.

12. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein X is a counterion whose conjugate acid has a pKa of less than 5.

13. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein X is selected from the group consisting of PF_6^- , CF_3COO^- , BF_4^- , and $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{SO}_3^-$.

14. (Currently amended) The film of claim 1 wherein the M is a member of a 5- or 6-membered ring fused to one or more ~~one~~ of the R groups.

15. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein the salt is present in amount sufficient to improve the tilt without changing the refractive index of the layer by more than 10 percent.

16. (Original) The film of claim 1 wherein the amount of salt is sufficient to increase the tilt by at least 10% compared to the layer with no onium salt.

17. (Original) The film of claim 1 containing up to 10 wt % onium salt in the layer.

18. (Original) The film of claim 1 containing less than 2 wt. % onium salt in the layer.

19. (Original) A liquid crystal display comprising the film of claim 1.

20. (Withdrawn) A process for forming an alignment layer having a predetermined tilt comprising adding a predetermined amount of an onium salt to a coating solution, coating a substrate with the coating solution, and drying the coating.